

# Forming Professional Mobility in Future Agricultural Specialists: the Sociohistorical Context

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**Abstract:** *The current research implies that the process of forming professional mobility in future agricultural specialists can be effective due to students' awareness of the sociohistorical characteristics of developing agriculture in Ukraine, starting from the primitive times up till now; understanding of the connection between the manifestation of professional mobility and self-realization of specialists; provision of pedagogical support to sustain continuing education and professional self-improvement of future specialists. The research aims to theoretically justify the sociohistorical background of forming professional mobility in future agricultural specialists. Research methods include interrelated theoretical methods such as retrospective analysis, comparison and synthesis of scientific sources on the problem under study. The study concludes that it is necessary to provide theoretical, methodical and methodological support for the process of forming professional mobility in future agricultural specialists, developing the technologies for forming professional mobility with an emphasis on those qualities that were highlighted when analyzing the sociohistorical characteristics of agriculture development.*

**Keywords:** *mobility; social mobility; labour mobility; professional mobility; professional training of agricultural specialists.*

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## Introduction

The problem of professional mobility, although being relatively new to Ukrainian realities, has a certain history and was, for some time, considered within the framework of social mobility. Only in the second half of the 20th century, there appeared active research on the phenomenon. Research interest is caused by complex social processes occurring in production and followed by staff turnover. The representatives of economic science also pay much attention to labour mobility along with social mobility, within which professionalism is analyzed. The problem of social and labour mobility has been actively studied in the USA and European countries. Various aspects of social mobility were covered by such scholars as B. Barber (1972), R. Blau & Duncan, O. D. (1967), P. Bourdieu (1994), D. Featherman, & R. Hauser (1978), D. Goldthorpe & C. Lewellyn (1977), S. Lipset, & R. Bendix (1967), J. Urry (2012) et al.

Under today's socio-economic conditions of Ukraine's development, the problem of young specialists' employment has become particularly relevant. It is caused by the inconsistency between professional training of graduates and the demands of the labour market, which is manifested in the contradictions between the requirements of employers and the expectations of potential employees regarding future working conditions. As a result, instead of pursuing a chosen career, almost half of the graduates are unable to find employment in their profession annually. These processes have become a prerequisite for new types and forms of employee mobility.□

The need to prepare future specialists for working conditions in the modern market causes the need to form professional mobility during professional training in higher education institutions. Therefore, there appears to be the need to take into account the socio-historical characteristics of agriculture development, which is directly related to future specialists' expression of professional mobility.

## Material and methods

The crisis phenomena following the development of the Ukrainian state predetermine the unpredictability of the labour market and facilitate the search for new approaches to the professional training of specialists who should be able to adapt to them. Under the conditions of developing market relations followed by the reduction of state enterprises, the emergence of new forms of ownership, there is a rapid development of both equipment and technology, which contributes to a significant increase in the requirements of employers for modern graduates. These circumstances

cause an urgent need to train specialists who can adapt to rapid changes in the socio-economic environment, study throughout their lives, flexibly respond to the requirements of the labour market and quickly adapt to them, be competitive. All this forms the basis for professional mobility of specialists. Therefore, there appears to be a need to form it in higher education institutions.□

### **The balance between the concepts of mobility, social mobility, labour mobility and professional mobility**

In the context of the current research, it is necessary to indicate the direct connection between the essential content of such concepts as professional mobility and mobility, social mobility and labour mobility.

First of all, it must be noted that the concept of mobility generates such concepts as social mobility and labour mobility, which are used mainly in sociological and economic research.

In the modern sense, mobility (from French *mobile* and Latin *mobilis*) implies a capacity for motion, ability to move quickly. There are two approaches to interpreting mobility: the first one explains it as a change of position (career development), profession (external migration, movement, transfer of an individual or individuals); the second one relates to the description of his/her personality (an inherent characteristic or feature).

In modern studies, mobility is interpreted as follows: in economic sciences, as a reverse side of stability; in sociology, as the transfer of an individual or a social group from one socio-professional group to another; in social pedagogy, as an important factor in the socialization of an individual, the constant need for new information, readiness to change the place of work or residence, the type of leisure, etc.; in professional pedagogy, as a willingness and ability to adapt to constantly changing conditions of labour market; in psychology, as a quick reaction of an individual to changing conditions and ability to recreate oneself internally; in social psychology, as an individual's belonging to different spheres of communication, the mechanisms of action between groups and within groups.□

Modern sociological studies consider social mobility to be any transfer of an individual or social object (values), that is, all that is created or modified by human activity, from one position to another, social movements, the movement between different socioeconomic positions, the changes in social roles. Professional mobility is regarded as one of the forms of social mobility.

The analysis of the use of such concepts as labour mobility, social mobility and professional mobility indicates the lack of a single point of view on their relationships. Thus, labour mobility acts as a form of social mobility, whereas social mobility is seen as a form of the labour force and professional mobility, as its form, is interpreted as an integral part of labour mobility. However, the main attention of economists is focused on the problem of economic expediency of labour movements.

This explains the interdisciplinary approach to studying professional mobility and identifying its sociohistorical variability.

Professional mobility is seen as a career lift which moves up and down, providing numerous variations for self-realization, and professional mobility channels include education and effective use of its results; experience and results of professional activity, personal potential; family, personal ties (Kovaleva, 2012).

An economic aspect of the analysis of professional mobility is based on the acquisition of relevant education, qualifications, professional skills, capacity for lifelong learning and retraining, advanced training following the needs of the labour market and professional self-improvement (Zvonar, 2012).□

This explains the relevance of forming professional mobility in pedagogy, which is a relatively new trend in the development of this science in Ukraine. Its interdisciplinary character, complexity and multidimensionality cause the need to consider scientific works of researchers from different branches of knowledge with a special emphasis on the problem of forming individual professional mobility during the educational process, which is its pedagogical aspect. It must be noted that the characteristics of forming professional mobility during professional training are highlighted in researches by L. Amirova (2004), L. Goryunova (2006), B. Igoshev (2008), Yu. Kalinovskiy (2001), S. Kaplina (2008), I. Khomiuk (2012), L. Merkulova (2008), L. Sushentseva (2011) et al.

### **A retrospective analysis of agriculture development in Ukraine until the 20th century**

The need to take into account the characteristics of the professional activity of future agricultural specialists causes the need to consider prospects of developing the agricultural sector of the Ukrainian economy. It must be noted that the quality of land resources allows one to consider the country as a supplier of agricultural products to different regions of the world. However, high competition in global markets necessitates the

implementation of agricultural innovations, which involves highly professional training of specialists. In doing so, it is necessary to use the possibility of employing future specialists, both at large agribusiness enterprises and private farms, whose work requires the mastering of several specialties, new technologies, techniques taking into account the seasonality of rural production, the manifestation of such personal qualities as autonomy, entrepreneurship, responsibility, ability to adapt to new requirements and conditions of professional activity, etc. The above-mentioned information emphasizes the importance of forming professional mobility in future agricultural specialists.

Professional mobility is one of the types of personal mobility derived from it. The study of sociohistorical preconditions for forming it in agricultural specialists makes it possible to outline the problems, which will occur on the way of forming the individual level of its manifestation during professional training in higher education institutions specializing in agriculture.

To this end, the authors of the article analyzed scientific works of such scholars as M. Alforov (2008), Yu. Bachynskiy (1995), A. Broiak (2011), M. Hrushevskiy (1990), I. Kahanets (2008), K. Khodzinskiy (2006), A. Kozlova (2009), H. Kryvchyk (2001), B. Lanovyk (1999), Yu. Lupenko (2012), A. Lysetskiy (2006), V. Petrenko (2008), V. Shcherbatiuk (2009), A. Zaiarniuk (2007), A. Zinchenko (2008) et al. The conducted analysis of their works shows that since the time of appropriating and subsequently arable- and livestock economy, the need to flexibly respond to changes and show adaptive capabilities have determined a life's success. The mastering of new tools and the need to grow new crops and handicrafts not only ensured vital activity but also were necessary conditions for human existence.

The emergence of a multitude of material goods contributed to developing trade, and the technological revolution taking place in the 10th century prompted the emergence of agriculture, which was followed by the emergence of new tools, the use of animals and other sources of energy. Since then, the ability to adapt and adjust to socioeconomic transformations is the core of human life's success. That part of the peasants, who not only produced products but also processed them for direct consumption, became the founders of the so-called home-made industry, which provided them with economic independence. Along with such peasants, some did not show a desire for something new, lost their freedom and received the status of slaves. This became the payment for lack of flexibility, lack of ability to adapt to new conditions, lack of mobility. □

Further development of agriculture is connected not only with the improvement of tools, the emergence of grain storage technologies but also with the improvement of the machinery, the cultivation of raw materials for them, that is, flax and hemp. Gardening and breeding of cattle and poultry also became popular. In the 14th century, there appeared apiaries in Ukraine. Honey began to be used to make various drinks. Hunting developed too and the fur-bearing animals were especially valued. Fishing and gathering became rather common during the lean years.

Once again, those peasants who strived for new types of management and manifested mobility remained free and those who lacked internal resources fell into economic dependence.

Since the late 18th century, the need for mobility increased among the peasants from Transcarpathia who were engaged in the reformist activity. As a result of the manifest for urban regulation, they received not only homestead but also the right to work abroad. Over time, the peasants were given the right to move freely throughout the country, inherit property, choose a profession and study in schools. All this allowed them to be mobile, which was important since most of them did not have an opportunity to earn a minimum living wage and were forced to work abroad, that is horizontal mobility.

Since then, the development of agriculture required certain knowledge, which people could acquire using journals. Also, self-study helped them to be successful and respond to changes flexibly.□

Socioeconomic transformations became more dynamic in the early industrial era. These are related to transportation and achievements in construction, use of electricity, home appliances, communication tools and computers. People learned how to process information, which rather contributed to the mobility of society (Massionis, 2004).

From the middle of the 19th century, Galicia peasants started to emigrate to the USA, Brazil and Argentina due to some changes in their legal status, which did not improve their socioeconomic status. Besides, they travelled to Germany, the Czech Republic, Romania, Denmark and the border provinces of Russia for seasonal work.□

Yu. Bachynskyi (1995) described typical problems faced by emigrants. First of all, Ukrainians hoped to make money in a year or two and return to their “native land”, although almost 90% of workers stayed in the United States. However, lack of English language skills and knowledge about American culture and norms of behaviour forced them to “seize” upon any work, which indicates their low readiness for such changes in living conditions and low adaptive capacity, even though the people who were

aware of such relationships found themselves, created their communities and improved their lives. There were only a few of them, though. As a result, one could observe the low efficiency of Ukrainian emigrants' mobility since they mainly were employed as unskilled workers or engaged in crafts. Some earned enough money to buy land and were engaged in farming and business. The scholar considers them to be smarter, enterprising, who managed to save money and used this "capital" to get the means to live. They showed entrepreneurship, autonomy, initiative, etc. In this case, one can speak of a forced type of horizontal mobility, but those who started their business through farming began to move into another social stratum, that is, they manifested horizontal mobility.□

These processes characterize the socioeconomic development of that part of Ukraine, which belonged to the Russian Empire. The mobility of peasants manifests itself in their ability to be founders and workers of sugar manufacture, coal industry, to migrate to other cities, to play an active part in the industrialization in the early 19th century. It also appears when the growing number of farms leads to an excess of workers. In Eastern Ukraine, people tend to leave to work abroad, namely to Novorossia, Caucasus, Saratov and Astrakhan provinces.

This trend continued during the late 19th century – the early 20th century after cancelling serfdom, which was followed by artificial resettlement of peasants to Steppe Ukraine, Bessarabia, Don, Kuban, Lower Volga as a result of reductions in the right to land ownership and low wages in agriculture, which hampered its development. Those peasants who emigrated to Ural, Siberia, the Far East needed to have even greater adaptive capacities. Changing the place of residence required a great ability to make important decisions, be responsible for them, to adapt to new conditions.

Stolypin land reform became a test of mobility since it accelerated the industrialization of the Ukrainian village. Those peasants who wanted and were able to do business managed to use it. To do this, they engaged in self-study since as agricultural development facilitated the development of agrochemicals. Zemsky agronomists organized rolling stations, agricultural readings. Land lease companies and collective farming were established for landless peasants (Kozlova, 2009). The qualities ensuring individual mobility were becoming more and more necessary, as well as special knowledge about trade and self-study.

By the 20th century, the peasantry faced difficult socioeconomic conditions, which predetermined the manifestation of mobility for survival, improving living conditions. The 20th century, however, became a period of trial for both peasants and agriculture. The ability to respond flexibly to

social, political and economic changes has become a prerequisite for existence. Only those who were able and ready to adapt to the existing opportunities had the chances to achieve success. The authors of the article believe that since then peasants began to develop dynamically those qualities oriented towards elementary survival, which must be taken into account when analyzing the obstacles to the manifestation of professional mobility of agricultural specialists nowadays.

### **The characteristics of agriculture development in the 20th century**

The characteristics of Ukraine's sociohistorical development in the early 20th century were related to the policy of "military communism" and were followed by the nationalization of land, industrial enterprises, trade, forced mobilization, centralized distribution of products and goods, the decree "On the Distribution of Left-Overs from the Harvest of 1918 and Previous Years". These measures deprived the peasants of a material interest in the production of products, led to a decrease and decline in agricultural production, prompted the discontent of the peasants and, consequently, the rebel movement. As a result of such actions, the Bolsheviks aimed to eliminate the wealthy peasantry, create collective forms of land cultivation and committees of poor peasants and eventually liquidate the material base of wealthy farmers.

The fact that the created conditions demanded the mobilization of all the internal forces of people who were in extremely difficult conditions and struggle to survive is indisputable. The fact that under such conditions only those survived who were able to be flexible and adapt is also true. Individual mobility defined chances for life and survival in those days. Considering the dramatic events of the further time, it is important to consider historical studies.

In the early 1920s, Ukraine's situation was extremely difficult. Ukrainian lands again fell under foreign domination. The UkSSR was founded, whose people were worried by the terrible events of the totalitarian regime in the history of mankind. The authors of the research believe that it is precisely from that time those features of the country's socio-economic development began to be particularly evident, whose consequences were inherent in the development of the economy, especially the agriculture. Undoubtedly, they affect the personal qualities of the peasants, their activity, thrift, ability to make decisions, be independent, responsible, initiative, etc. Thus, there are qualities, which form the basis of professional mobility.□



Describing the rather dramatic events of the 1920s, such scholars as O. Hanzha (2001), B. Lanovyk (1999) and V. Shcherbatiuk (2009) mention the destruction of private property, alienation of peasants from production, establishment of collective farms, economic and political injustice of peasants, surplus appropriation system and fines. This resulted in the degradation of agriculture followed by the slaughter of cattle, continuing collectivization, the accusation of peasants in speculation and their transformation into serfs. Due to the industrialization taking place in those years, one could observe the disproportion in the development of the economy, the increasing shortage of consumer goods, the decrease in food supply as a result of crop failure, mass collectivization, liquidation of wealthy peasantry (kulaks), expropriation, repression of heads of families and eviction of families.

In the context of forming mobility, the traces of kulaks are fully in line with the characteristics of a modern, entrepreneurial mobile individual who can engage in a wide range of activities. In addition to agriculture, he/she can deal with various trade cases, usury, contracts, supply, organization of processing enterprises where hired labour is used and large agricultural machines are exploited, etc. This group of peasants who mastered the technologies of conducting effective agricultural activity was creative and proactive. Kulaks included also those who were not engaged in farming or did not possess significant crops and livestock and lived at the expense of one or more of the above sources, as well as those who ran average households but had additional profits. It must be borne in mind that it is precisely the wealthy peasantry who played the leading role in the work of agricultural cooperation, especially in high-quality professional societies and credit unions. It is the wealthy peasantry that was recognized as the bearer of economic and scientific and technological progress in agriculture (Lanovyk, et al., 1999).

There is every reason to believe that the category of peasants who were most affected by the collectivization of destruction was well-educated, initiative, enterprising, competitive and strived for self-study, etc. Indeed, the destruction affected those who facilitated the progressive development of the industry and showed professional mobility.

The dramatic events of 1932-1933 are widely covered in the scientific literature. According to V. Petrenko (2008), the Holodomor of 1932-1933 took more human lives than any other cataclysm of the 20th century and inflicted a devastating blow on the Ukrainian gene pool and changed their minds.

The possibility of changing ethnos is highlighted by I. Kahanets (2008). According to the scholar, it is an extremely vivid, homogeneous, holistic entity, which is characterized by the type of information metabolism (sociotype) that has remained unchanged during its existence. Changing the sociotype means that the place of the old ethnos is replaced with a new one.

The collectivization led to the final elimination of incentives for labour and the establishment of a command economy for full subordination of collective farms to state authorities. Thus, autonomy, initiative, hard work, responsibility for one's own business and entrepreneurship were suppressed. This had negative consequences for the development of Ukrainian agriculture since personal qualities needed to ensure the efficiency of production and professional mobility of individuals were eliminated.

The process of developing agriculture was complicated by significant migrations of Ukrainians in connection with the industrialization of the country when peasants became the source of forming a working class (Alforov, 2008).□

In comparison with Eastern Ukrainian lands, agriculture in Western Ukraine was developed under less dramatic conditions, although the prerequisites for developing peasantry were not created. The development of industrial construction was slowed down, the situation in the agricultural sector was rather difficult, crop yield was unchanged, labour productivity was low, the farming tools did not differ much from those used in the 9th century. Land reforms of 1919 in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania did not lead to the acquisition of land by the peasants. This was followed by the crisis phenomena of economic development of that time.

The 1930s were extremely unfavourable for agriculture development in Bukovina. To a certain extent, they resembled those events, which took place in the Eastern Ukrainian lands. Immediately after the entry of Soviet troops, former functionaries, landowners, small and large businessmen, wealthy peasants were arrested and evicted.

The second wave of deportation started in April 1940, when kulaks were exiled. According to various estimates, about 10-20% of the population were sent to Siberia, the Volga region, Kazakhstan and the North from Western Ukraine during 1939-1940. Once again, the most successful, able-bodied, mobile peasants were forced to leave Ukraine.

During the Second World War, the tactic of "destroyed land" was applied to Ukraine. When there was no opportunity to reorient the economy for the needs of defence, everything was subjected to destruction, namely cattle, agricultural implements, etc.

The characteristics of the sociohistorical development of Ukraine's agriculture in the second half of the 20th century can be characterized as follows: the famine of 1946-1947, "the Five Ears of Grain Law", the restriction of the household individual economy, the introduction of monetary and personal taxes, which resulted in the destruction of domestic animals, gardens, made impossible the activities of the true owner. In the early 1960s, collective and state-owned enterprises were established. In 1965, one could observe the transition to administrative-economic methods of economy management based on the party and government resolutions. In the 1980s, another attempt was made to change the management system, but agriculture remained its weakest and neglected area.□

In the early 20th century, the brutal exploitation of the Ukrainian economy resulted in its depletion, slowdown of development, which grew into a deep crisis. Between 1990 and 1993, the volume of production of many agricultural products was discarded by 15-20 years.

In the same years, as an alternative to the state agricultural sector, farms began to be established. The Law of Ukraine "On Individual Farming Economy" (1991) determines the identification of individual activity, stimulates the increase of labour productivity. The farmer has the right to independently sell his/her products to the state, to other buyers on the domestic and foreign markets and is allowed to use bank loans. This requires the farmer to make independent decisions and take responsibility for their economic opportunities.□

Despite all the troubles of the previous times, there is a crisis of overproduction in the process of reducing production in Ukraine (the market is shrinking, goods are not in demand due to low quality and high prices). All this proves the lack of competitiveness of agricultural production. Therefore, the lack of proper professional training of agricultural specialists can be reliably attributed to the causes of it. The inability to respond flexibly to changes that have taken place in economic development, as well as the lack of quick adaptation to rapidly changing conditions are reflected in this situation.□

The decline of the village, the backlog of the industry, low investment attractiveness, lack of land market, disturbance of long-term economic ties, creation of prerequisites for degradation of rural areas are typical for the analysis of agriculture development and its crisis (Broiaka, 2011; Levkovych, & Yaremko, 2011). More than a third of rural residents are unemployed, that is, they do not work as hired people, do not have their own business, do not produce commodity products in personal peasant farms (Petrenko, 2008).□

The inertial resistance formed in previous years, lack of initiative and independence, inability to take balanced risks fully manifest themselves. Yet, there were always those who sought to move forward, turn the situation into their interests, trying to improve the conditions of their lives.□

Under such conditions, competition in the labour market which is becoming a decisive factor in “the struggle for life’s benefits” is increasing and “the terms of the game” change every day. As a result, there can be a constructive restructuring of the economy even during the life of one generation (Sushentseva, 2011). This, in turn, determines the need to study and retrain.

### **Discussion & Conclusions**

S. Zhovnir (2011), describing the mobility of the labour market in Ukraine in the context of the financial and economic crisis, indicates that the country’s economic growth increased the demand for professional abilities and skills in all spheres of activity. Besides, the situation corresponded to the manifestation of a high level of professional mobility and Ukrainian workers moved more and more often from one place to another on their initiative. With the start of the crisis, the mobility of labour resources in the national labour market was directly related to sector shocks, the specifics of the economic situation of certain sectors and activities. This influenced the nature of the processes of interprofessional mobility, their intensity, the direction of movement, the ways and means of changing the profession. Under the conditions of crisis deployment and overcoming of the recession processes, forced interprofessional mobility prevailed over voluntary one.□

It is undeniable that the development of agriculture directly depends on professional training of agricultural specialists since the process of diversification is the result of certain entrepreneurial abilities and efforts, where the factors in the internal character are rather significant. Indeed, they are determined by the level of education, age, social connections, life views and beliefs of the individual who appreciates this process and seeks additional sources of income and the development of his/her business (Borodina, & Prokora, 2010).

As one can see, professional mobility has long ensured life’s success of the individual and become the basis for effective management. However, due to certain sociohistorical events reflected in the development of Ukrainian agriculture for a long time, some conditions were created under which the manifestation of activity, thrift, ability to make responsible decisions, initiative, hard work, entrepreneurship became impossible.

The revealed characteristics of agriculture development explain the peculiar personal qualities of modern rural residents and agricultural specialists, which constitute a significant barrier to the development of professional mobility.

The bibliographical analysis of forming professional mobility in future agricultural specialists shows that today's socio-economic conditions add special relevance to this problem, given the innovative development of the agro-economic sector and the modernization of agricultural education.

Also, the analysis of socio-historical prerequisites for forming professional mobility in agricultural specialists proves the historical need for its forming and providing adjustment opportunities, associated with learning to use new working tools, grow new crops, develop handicrafts, which have always supported life activities as necessary conditions of Ukrainians' existence under difficult socio-historical conditions since ancient times. The conditions for manifesting mobility in society have been formed since the 18th century. However, it is mostly related to forced mobility, which was manifested through self-study and entrepreneurship.

It is found that the new impetus for manifesting mobility became the era of industrialization, which predetermined certain features of agricultural development. Abilities to make independent decisions, adjust to new socio-economic realities and solve critical life issues indicated the mobility of rural working people, which was manifested under the conditions of organized or spontaneous resettlement. The emigration from Galicia to the USA, Brazil and Argentina prompted the manifestation of mobility among Ukrainian peasants. The artificial resettlement of peasants in Eastern Ukraine required great adaptation capabilities. The Stolypin land reform became a certain mobility test, encouraging the most enterprising peasants who strived for learning and self-study to improve their living conditions.

The beginning of the 20th century was extremely difficult for Ukrainian peasantry since the policy of war communism, the decline of agriculture and the Bolsheviks' insistence on the elimination of wealthy peasants created special conditions for individual mobility to determine the chances of life. The totalitarian regime in Ukraine in the early 1920s destroyed private property and reduced economic activity estranging peasants from production, discouraging them from land lease and sale of cattle. Also, it terminated the employment of wealthy peasants and caused their lack of those personal qualities that still impede the manifestation of thrift, initiative and independence.

The destruction of Ukrainian peasants' ethnic identity continued during the years of forced famines and after the deportation of wealthy

peasants from Western Ukraine. As a result of industrialisation, significant emigration of Ukrainians rather complicated agricultural development, too. The years of World Wars also proved to be difficult for the development of Ukrainian peasantry. The post-war years did not bring prosperity to farmers because of the famine of 1946-47, the establishment of collective and state farms and the transition to economic management regulated by the Communist party. They attempted to change the management system in the 1980s, which led to a deep crisis in the industrial development in the 1990s.

The attempts to change the situation, reflected in the Law of Ukraine “On Peasant (Farm) Economy” (1991), are hampered by the lack of initiative, independent and responsible specialists, who can conduct economic activities in Ukraine and beyond. It must be noted that both professional and psychological training of agricultural specialists remains rather insufficient and ineffective. Under such socio-historical conditions, the problem of forming professional mobility becomes extremely acute since it is important to develop the agricultural sector of Ukraine following modern needs and requirements.

The authors of the article believe that taking into account the socio-historical characteristics of agriculture development one can identify potential problems of professional training. In the context of forming professional mobility in agricultural specialists, such problems include the need to develop adaptive potential, capacity for lifelong learning, autonomy, initiative, responsibility for one’s own business and entrepreneurship.

However, the studies conducted by certain scholars (Amirova, 2009; Goryunova, 2006; Igoshev, 2008; Kalinovskiy, 2001; Kaplina, 2008; Merkulova, 2008; Sushentseva, 2011; Khomiuk, 2011) have not covered this approach. Even though the need for constant updating of one’s knowledge, skills and abilities is emphasized by many scholars, the identification of personal qualities which ensure the manifestation of professional mobility quite often is conditioned by more general factors. Thus, quite typical is the need for mastering modern computer technology, skills of interpersonal communication, foreign language competence, etc. However, there are no scientific works devoted to the problem of forming professional mobility in future agricultural specialists. Undoubtedly, the professional mobility of future teachers and engineers, which was studied by many above-mentioned scholars, has its specifics. Therefore, it is rather controversial whether it is expedient to take into account the socio-historical characteristics of agriculture development.□

Still, the modern labour market put numerous demands on graduates related to their professional competency. Its important components are

flexibility and professional mobility, which is manifested in the ability to quickly adjust to rapidly changing conditions, master new techniques and technologies of professional activity. The process of forming personal qualities, which make it possible to manifest mobility and constitute its individual aspect, needs to take into account socio-cultural and historical features of the development of both the country and future specialists. Besides, the problems emerging in professional training of future specialists have a socio-historical context and depend on the development of each country. In many respects, the awareness of socio-historical peculiarities of Ukraine's agriculture development explains those processes taking place in the country today.

The study concludes that it is necessary to provide theoretical, methodical and methodological support for the process of forming professional mobility in future agricultural specialists, developing the technologies for forming professional mobility with an emphasis on those qualities that were highlighted when analyzing the sociohistorical characteristics of agriculture development.

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